make you responsible for the great change over from isolation to what I call Continentalism. It seems to me that the new lines were laid down by Lansdowne rather than by you.

G. That is so.

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS

I. You said during the war that you believed there were no records here of Barnardiston's conversations in Brussels.

G. They were purely academic.

J. They have been found in the War Office. The men who may have known about them had all gone to the war.

G, Are you going to publish them ?

J. They were published in our third volume kst December. Did you read any parts of that volume ?

G. No. I can read so littlq.

L If you had consulted the Cabinet in January 1906 about your conversations with Cambon, as you now admit would have been wise, would you have met with opposition ? In other words, would it have made any real difference to history ?

G. I don't think so. Campbell-Bannerman and Ripon, as well as Asquith and Haldane, knew and approved. We should doubtless have had criticism but not, I should say, opposition. It was impossible to refuse the French request for military consultations : that would have been to undo all the work of 1904-5. Besides, we made it clear that we were to remain absolutely uncommitted.

J. General Huguet, in his book, says that you, Haldane and Campbell-Bannerman were too clever not to realize that these conversations and arrangements constituted something like a moral engagement.

G. If that had been the case, Cambon would have said so in 1914, whereas he only appealed to our interests.

J. Cambon spoke very differently to Wickham Steed, when he asked if the word honour was to be blotted out of the English language.

G. We always made it clear that the conversations left the Governments absolutely free, and we stated it in the letters of 1912, which I think reassured some of my colleagues.

L Cambon thought that the Liberal maximum might have been

only a Conservative minimum. Would the Conservatives have gone further to meet French wishes and been ready to make an alliance ?

G. Some Conservatives would have liked to do so, but it would have been impossible. Public opinion would have been opposed to it.

J. The more I study the documents the more I feel that our friendship with France, once made, rendered real friendship with